

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
18 January 2001 (18.01.2001)

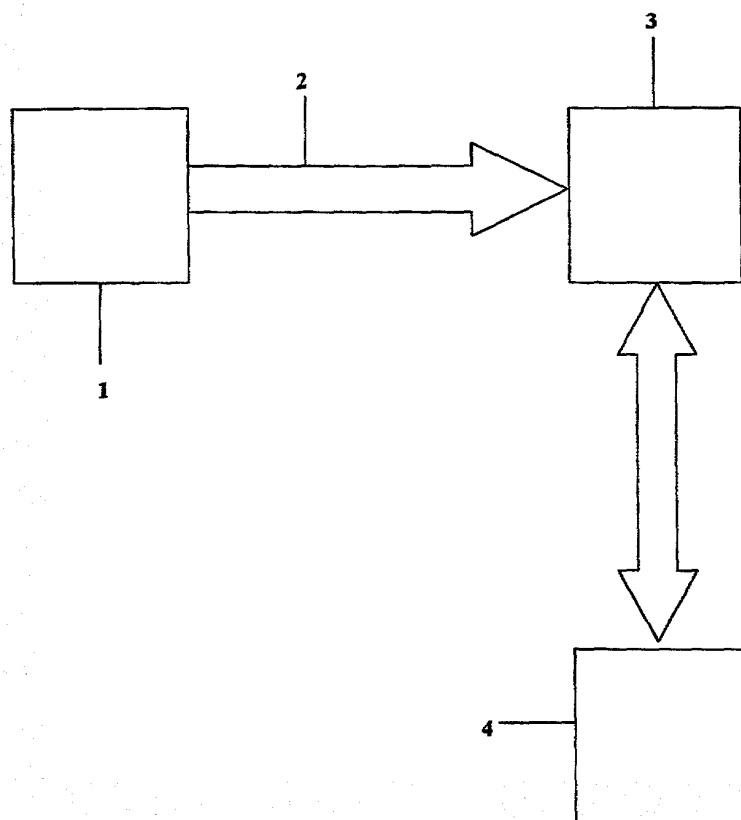
PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 01/04730 A1

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: **G06F 1/00** Joshua [ZA/ZA]; 12 Comrie Road, Camps Bay, Cape Town, 8001 Cape Province (ZA).
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/GB00/02692
- (22) International Filing Date: 13 July 2000 (13.07.2000)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
9916432.9 13 July 1999 (13.07.1999) GB
13 Jan 00/30 and
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- (81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE,

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(54) Title: IDENTIFICATION OF COMPUTERS



(57) Abstract: A method of identifying a computer connected on-line to a remotely located site, comprises the steps of: searching a hard disk associated with the computer for identifying element inherent to the computer; and combining the identifying element, when found, together with other identifying information associated with the hardware of the computer, to form a unique identifier for that computer. The unique identifier for the computer is compared to a store of such unique identifiers available to the remote site. If the unique identifier is present in the store, it is matched to data which is available to the remote site and which is associated with that unique identifier. If the unique identifier is not present in the store, then it is stored in the store, and recorded against data associated with that computer.

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